| Year | Quantity in tonnes | Value | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | In Rs. crore | In Million US$ |
| 1998-99 | 34472 | 617.32 | 147.58 |
| 1999-2000 | 36645 | 775.35 | 180.19 |
| 2000-01 | 41747 | 1164.40 | 255.93 |
| 2001 -02 | 49041 | 1421.38 | 299.05 |
| 2002-03 | 55510 | 1818.87 | 376.39 |

(c) The other major importing countries of our marine products are Japan, the E.U. member countries, China, South East Asian countries, etc.

**Opening of silk route via Nathula pass of Sikkim**

13. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the Prime Minister and Defence Minister to China would help in opening of the silk route of Commerce *via* Nathula pass in Sikkim;

(b) whether any discussion has been held with China to open some other route of Commerce *via* Arunachal Pradesh during their visit;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) During the visit of Prime Minister to China from June 22-27, 2003, India and China signed, *inter alia,* a Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade. It adds another Pass on the India-China border and sets up an additional point on each side for border trade. The two sides agreed to use Nathula

as the Pass for entry and exit of persons, means of transport and commodities engaged in border trade.

**Opening of labour/service market under WTO agreement**

14. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that opening up of labour/service market and movement of people under WTO Agreement is far from being realized;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the EU countries refuse to recognize the educational qualifications from third world countries;

(c) if so, how this decision would affect the prospects of the aspiring Indian professionals;

(d) whether Government have taken up/proposed to take up for negotiations these anomalies in the WTO Forum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services establishes a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services and for grant of market access and national treatment commitments on a sectoral basis by each country, including on temporary movement of natural persons for supply of services. In this context, the commitments taken by most countries during the Uruguay Round are linked to commercial presence and are subject to a number of limitations and administrative hurdles.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The European Community has, in its commitments, offered access for temporary movement of service providers in various categories subject to evaluation of the educational and professional qualifications of the persons seeking access.

(d) and (e) In keeping with the understanding that developed countries have taken very minimal commitments with regard to the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on